

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

11-3-1980

Flathead County tops state for population growth in '70s

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Flathead County tops state for population growth in '70s" (1980). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 31651.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/31651>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

maribeth dwyer • news editor

IMMEDIATELY

bber/walser/rsp
11/3/80
state

FLATHEAD COUNTY TOPS STATE
FOR POPULATION GROWTH IN '70s

MISSOULA--

Flathead County experienced the most rapid population growth of any of the state's most populous counties during the 1970s, according to University of Montana economist Paul Polzin.

Writing in the autumn issue of the Montana Business Quarterly, Polzin points out that Flathead County grew faster than Missoula, Yellowstone, Cascade and Lewis and Clark Counties during the past decade. Much of the growth occurred between 1974 and 1978, when the population jumped to more than 50,000 persons.

Polzin also found that non-farm earnings in Flathead County rose at an annual rate of over 10 percent per year between 1975 and 1978. Only in Missoula County, which had a growth rate of more than 11 percent, was the increase greater.

The major factors contributing to the Flathead County economy are the wood products industry and the Anaconda Aluminum Company. Together these two industries provided over half the earnings in Flathead County in 1978.

Polzin speculates that Flathead County's economy will continue to grow in the 1980s, but probably at a slower rate than experienced in the late 1970s. The rapid expansion since 1975 was due to the coincidence of two events which may not be repeated -- several very good years in the wood products industry and a significant expansion in employment at the Anaconda Aluminum Company plant.

##